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15 January 1960

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MEMORANDUM FOR MEMBERS.

SUBJECT:

CIA program for series of Polygraph tests.

1. At the Director's staff meeting of 12 January, he announced that CIA proposed to conduct an extensive series of tests upon the polygraph machine (which I assume is the technical monicker for the lie detector), and that he wanted to make certain that all CIA staff officers and members would have a clear understanding of the significance of these tests.

2. In particular the Director made it plain that the polygraph tests will be given on a purely voluntary basis (no one will be required against his will to take the test) and in addition no matter what may be developed by the tests, they will not be made the subject of any form of disciplinary action. The results of the test, whatever they disclose derogatory information, will be very carefully protected and this information will not go into the personnel folders of the individuals taking the tests. One of the principal purposes for running the tests is that of testing the machine itself for its worth and usability in connection with the general work of this Agency.

3. It is requested that the foregoing information be made known to your respective staffs in order that they may have a proper comprehension of the significance of these tests.

PCG:dlw

T.O.W.

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